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'Rabbie' Burns still brings 'em out, 250 years on

TRADITION Many wee drams o' Scotch whisky washed down uncounted haggis across the city last night as those of Scottish descent, and more who wished they were, celebrated Robert Burns' 250th birthday.

Even though Burns was a lowlander, the Highlander Pub on Rideau Street served up dramatic recitations of the Scottish poet's writings, including the oft-quoted Address to a Haggis, along with bagpipe music and entrees of the traditional offal-stuffed sheep's stomach.

"It's a poor man's pate," said Highlander manager Ken Goodhue. "It's coarse ground. You have to like offal."

Goodhue's favourite Burns poem is Scots wha hae, a nationalist ditty that was set to music and served for a long time as an unofficial anthem to those who wanted Scottish freedom.

"At the time he wrote his nationalist poetry, it was against the law to wear a kilt," said Goodhue, describing the poet's life as "fast and furious." Burns died in 1796 at age 37.

Those who missed the party can sample haggis any time, since it's on the Highlander menu.

KATHRYN YOUNG/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Local pg 2

Transit talks to start again

Celebrity pg 14

SJP denies split

Chinese New Year — **Year of the Ox**

RINA OTA/REUTERS

A man dressed as a fortune god leaves the Thaian Hock Keng Temple on Chinese New Year in Singapore. Chinese people all over the world will usher in the Lunar New Year of the Ox today.

Tories target training

More than $2 billion in training and support funds for those who lose their jobs will be announced in tomorrow's federal budget, along with hundreds of millions of dollars to create a new economic development agency for hard-hit southern Ontario.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley outlined the spending in an interview with the Toronto Star as Prime Minister Stephen Harper hinted the budget would contain permanent tax cuts to put extra money in the pockets of middle-class Canadians.

Finley said the budget would contain $1.5 billion in cash to provide training for laid-off workers who are eligible to collect employment insurance and for those who cannot access EI funds under current rules.

She admitted yesterday that a lot of Canadians are "unfortunately" going to lose their jobs before the economy bounces back.

Brushing aside budget secrecy traditions, the Conservatives continue to roll out the big-ticket items in tomorrow's budget on an item-by-item basis.

And cabinet ministers are hinting at permanent tax cuts that will provide more cash for middle-class Canadians in hopes they will spend it on consumer goods to jump-start the desperately weak economy.

On Saturday, Harper confirmed tomorrow's budget will contain lasting tax cuts, not simply short-term tax reductions meant to help get Canada escape the recession.

"If we're talking about tax cuts, these measures in most cases have to be permanent to be effective," he told La Presse newspaper.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE PGS 4, 7

Stimulus package details

- Overall stimulus valued at about $21B
- $1B fund for mining, farming, forestry
- $2B for social housing
- Permanent tax cuts
- $500M to modernize farms/equipment
- $50M to expand slaughterhouses
- $50 million to promote forestry abroad
- $100M for forestry technology

Canada 2009
Federal **Budget**

Need a doc? New plan to match up patients

HEALTH CARE Help is on the way for 500,000 Ontario residents without a family physician, who have generally been forced to go to walk-in clinics or emergency rooms when they need medical attention.

Starting next month, a new hotline will help match people with a doctor in their area willing to take on new patients, the Toronto Star has learned.

"This is a made-in-Ontario solution." Health Minister David Caplan

The government will institute a special 1-800 number, where a Telehealth Ontario staffer will take down a health history and pass it on to a nurse who will help find a family doctor.

"This is a made-in-Ontario solution," Health Minister David Caplan said of the program to be launched in February.

"We will be the first jurisdiction, I am aware of, that is doing this."

Still, critics point out that the program, called Health Care Connect, will not deal with the core problem: A shortage of doctors.

It is part of a provincial government and Ontario Medical Association commitment to find family doctors for 500,000 people. It's estimated 400,000 to a million Ontarians do not have a family doctor.

The health ministry and the OMA, the body representing nearly 33,000 physicians, made the commitment to find Ontarians family doctors when they signed their last contract in 2008. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Flight attendants' union warns that Air Canada passenger service will suffer

The president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Paul Moist, said yesterday that Air Canada passengers should brace for poorer service, after the airline announced it would lay off 345 more flight attendants. The latest round of layoffs, described by the airline as temporary, follows a previous cut of 600 flight attendants, Moist said. METRO OTTAWA

Local

Celebrating the Year of the Ox

The Year of the Ox begins today for Ottawans of Chinese descent, many of whom will wear red since it traditionally symbolizes luck and wards off evil spirits. Many Chinese New Year celebrations took place on the weekend, and others are still to come. The Ottawa Chamber Orchestra celebrates the Sights and Sounds of China with a concert next Saturday featuring music by Chinese composers. Those born in the Year of the Ox are said to be dependable, loyal and good leaders. METRO OTTAWA

Lotteries

Friday, Jan. 23
Super 7: 03, 04, 17, 22, 28, 34 & 37 Bonus 21
Saturday, Jan. 24
Lotto 6/49: 09, 13, 20, 29, 45 & 46 Bonus 05
Sunday, Jan. 25
Ontario Pick 3: 7 1 8; **Ontario Pick 4** : 6 9 2 5
Encore: 3199966;
Daily Keno: 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 28, 34, 36, 37, 40, 43, 45, 54, 58, 65
These results are not official.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Comment What could a $34-billion deficit buy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Crime RCMP "Mr. Big" sting operations come under fire at **metronews.ca/canada**

Global Style columnist Kenya Hunt launches her new blog at **metronews.ca/canada**

Transit talks resume today

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.weiclawski@metronews.ca

Informal negotiations will resume again today with a revised mandate for city negotiators, after both sides of the transit strike walked away from the table last Friday.

The city and the union broke off informal talks on Friday when the federal mediator working with both sides decided they were too far from an agreement and it would be futile to continue.

On Saturday evening, after a five-hour emergency meeting called by Mayor Larry O'Brien, city council "updated" the mandate for city negotiators.

Details of those changes are not being made public, however city spokesperson Michael Fitzpatrick said council reiterated its position that any scheduling agreement must comply with federal work/rest regulations.

"We've contacted the union with news that we have an updated mandate and called them back to the table," he said.

Amalgamated Transit Union international vice-president Randy Graham will be sitting down with a federal mediator and city representatives this morning, when he will learn the city's latest position.

"They apparently have a new proposal and we'll see what it is," he said yesterday.

There had been no new offers from the union since Jan. 16 when it offered that all outstanding issues be forwarded to binding interest-based arbitration with the exception of scheduling, which would be forwarded to an independent fact finder.

Emergency funding sought

• The province should provide one-time emergency funding to help residents during the strike, says Nepean-Carleton Conservative MPP Lisa MacLeod.

Yesterday, MacLeod called on Premier Dalton McGuinty to offer emergency social-service funding to the City of Ottawa.

"I've often been critical of Mr. McGuinty because of his free-spending ways, but if there was ever a case where I would support his injecting money, it would be this case," said MacLeod.

"These are real people struggling and it has been very frustrating as a provincial politician to know none of this has been in our jurisdiction."

MacLeod would not suggest a dollar amount, saying it would best be left to the municipality. But she is asking McGuinty to contact the city to determine the strike's economic impact and to get a better understanding of the types of calls for help community health centres are receiving.

In the last two weeks, the city has invested $700,000 emergency transportation measures for Ottawa residents.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

KATHRYN YOUNG/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Hardy souls cross the finish line of the fifth annual Hypothermic Half-Marathon yesterday morning at Central Experimental Farm. Organized by the Running Room, the race — similar to others run in about 15 Canadian cities — raises funds for the Ottawa Hospital Foundation.

Intrepid brave Hypothermic race

There was a lot of incentive to keep moving for the hundreds of runners and walkers who completed Ottawa's Hypothermic Half-Marathon yesterday in -19 C weather.

"People finish the race with ice all over their faces," said Ian Hunter, 58, who ran it for the first time and finished in 2:09.

They call it hypothermic for a reason."

While the 400 people who registered for the race might seem crazy, they were warmer than the many volunteers and race organizers who stood in the cold under falling snow as the competitors ran and walked 21.1 kilometres through the Central Experimental Farm.

Nationally ranked racewalker Linda Wilson, 53, was first across the finish line in 2:20:03, while Bruce McNicoll, 50, was the fastest runner, completing the course in 1:26. Metro reporter Tracey Tong completed the race in 2:16. KATHRYN YOUNG /FOR METRO OTTAWA

Police uncertain if 2 armed thefts connected

INVESTIGATIONS Ottawa police are investigating two armed robberies that took place in the city's west end on Saturday evening.

At around 7:30 p.m., two men, one carrying a knife with a six-inch blade, robbed the Tim Horton's at 1384 Baseline Rd., near Merivale Road, and escaped on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

Half an hour later, two men in their late teens, one also armed with a knife, entered the Quickie Convenience store on Chartwell Avenue near Craig Henry Park and also fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

Police say they have not determined if the robberies are connected. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116, or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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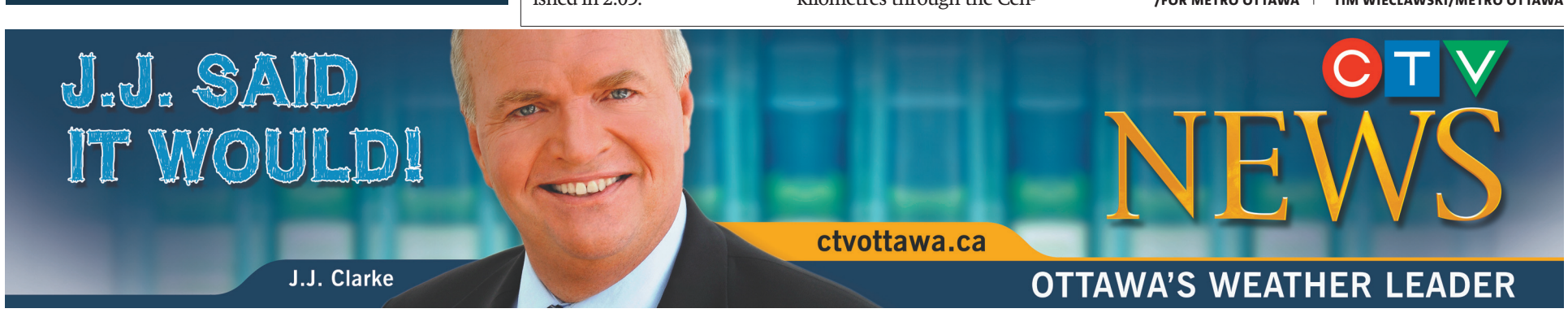

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Turnout too low for compensation vote

A referendum on a proposed agreement that would have compensated members of Manitoba's Peguis First Nation for land it surrendered a century ago has failed to draw enough voters to make the results count. There were more than 4,000 eligible voters, but fewer than 1,500 cast ballots. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Back-to-work order quashed

Ontario's New Democrats have stalled the provincial government's bid to legislate an end to the York University strike. NDP Leader Howard Hampton, left, said he was against forcing an end to the 11-week-old labour dispute. The back-to-work legislation tabled yesterday could have ended the strike at Canada's third largest university, but the NDP's eight members voted against early passage. CBC NEWS ONLINE

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A changed man

Harper's principles have turned on their heads

From the Senate to fixed-date elections and government appointments, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has seen his political principles tested and turned on their head in recent months.

Tomorrow, Harper will put a price tag on that political journey — as much as $34 billion — as the minority Conservatives unveil a budget that will spill red ink on a scale not seen in more than a decade.

This from a prime minister who just months ago vowed there would be no deficit.

"We will not be running a deficit. We will keep our spending within our means."
Stephen Harper, on Oct. 7

Canada 2009 Federal **Budget**

"We will not be running a deficit. We will keep our spending within our means. It is that simple," Harper told a Toronto audience on Oct. 7.

"He's turned his back on so many things. He said he would never appoint senators the way he did. Sure enough, he broke that promise. Election dates, appointing Supreme Court justices, the list is pretty long," NDP Leader Jack Layton told CTV's Question Period.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada 2009 Federal **Budget**

Upcoming Coverage
Tuesday
- **What provinces are asking for**
- **Lawrence Martin on what to expect**
- **Charles Davies on securities regulators**

Wednesday
- **The breakdown on who gets what**
- **Reaction from the Opposition coalition**
- **Profiles on locally affected families**

News in brief

BIRD FLU An H5 avian flu virus has been found in a commercial turkey farm in B.C.'s Fraser Valley, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed Saturday.

QUEBEC An officer with Quebec provincial police is suing the force for $5.4 million, alleging it failed to protect him from racial harassment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Avalanche claims 10 lives in Turkey
An avalanche that swept down a mountain near a small winter resort killed 10 climbers in northeast Turkey yesterday, but seven of their companions survived the crush, a government minister said. Rescue teams worked through the afternoon to retrieve survivors and bodies. REUTERS

World

Bruni denies role in extradition call

French first lady Carla Bruni, left, went on Italian TV yesterday to deny reports she had persuaded Brazil not to extradite an Italian guerrilla, after criticism in her homeland last year for supporting a guerrilla exiled in France. Italian-born singer and former model Bruni, who married French President Nicolas Sarkozy a year ago, told a television show she was "very surprised the Italian media should think I played such a role". REUTERS

Israel vows to protect soldiers

Olmert says military will be protected from war crimes accusations

International calls to investigate Israel over alleged war crimes in the Gaza Strip prompted Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday to promise military personnel state protection from foreign prosecution.

"The commanders and soldiers sent to Gaza should know they are safe from various tribunals and Israel will assist them on this front and defend them, just as they protected us with their bodies during the Gaza operation," Olmert said.

Proposed truce terms

- Israel has proposed to Egyptian mediators an 18-month ceasefire with Hamas, but the group that controls Gaza said it wants a one-year ceasefire, a Hamas official said yesterday.

Last week, the military censor ordered local and foreign media in Israel not to publish names of army commanders in the Gaza war and to blur their faces in photos and video for fear they could be identified and arrested while travelling abroad.

Israeli media reports said the military had been advising its top brass to think twice about visiting Europe.

Speaking at a weekly cabinet meeting, Olmert said Israel's justice minister would consult the country's top legal experts and find "answers to possible questions relating to the Israeli military's activities" during the 22-day war.

Some 1,300 Palestinians, including at least 700 civilians, were killed, medical officials said, in the offensive Israel launched in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip with the declared aim of ending cross-border rocket attacks.

The civilian deaths sparked public outcry abroad and prompted senior UN officials to demand independent investigations into whether Israel committed war crimes.

Ten Israeli soldiers and three civilians, hit by rocket salvoes, were killed in the conflict.

Israel said hundreds of militants were among the Palestinian dead and that it tried its best to avoid civilian casualties in densely populated areas where gunmen operated.

Rights group Amnesty International has said that Israel's use of white phosphorus munitions — which can cause extreme burns — in built-up areas of the Gaza Strip was indiscriminate and therefore constituted a war crime. REUTERS

France, Spain try to recover from storm

DAMAGE European countries sent teams of electricians to France yesterday and Spain deployed extra troops to help deal with the aftermath of a storm that killed 15 people in southwest France and northern Spain.

With Saturday's winds of up to 190 kilometres an hour gone, the sun rose over a chaotic landscape of fallen trees and pylons, destroyed roofs, crushed cars and scattered debris.

The Spanish Defence Ministry said the army had stepped up support to firemen fighting a forest fire in La Nucia that started when gales felled an electricity pylon on Saturday.

More than 1,000 French electricians struggled to restore power to 1.1 million homes. Colleagues from Britain, Germany and Portugal were due to arrive to help out.

The storm killed 11 people in Spain — including four children who were killed when a sports centre collapsed — and four in France. REUTERS

Obama targets space weapons

POLICY U.S. President Barack Obama's pledge to seek a worldwide ban on weapons in space marks a dramatic shift in policy, while posing the tricky issue of defining whether a satellite can be a weapon.

Moments after Obama's inauguration last week, the White House website was updated to include policy statements on a range of issues, including a pledge to restore U.S. leadership on space issues and seek a worldwide ban on weapons that interfere with military and commercial satellites.

Obama

It also promised to look at threats to U.S. satellites, contingency plans to keep information flowing from them, and what steps are needed to protect spacecraft against attack.

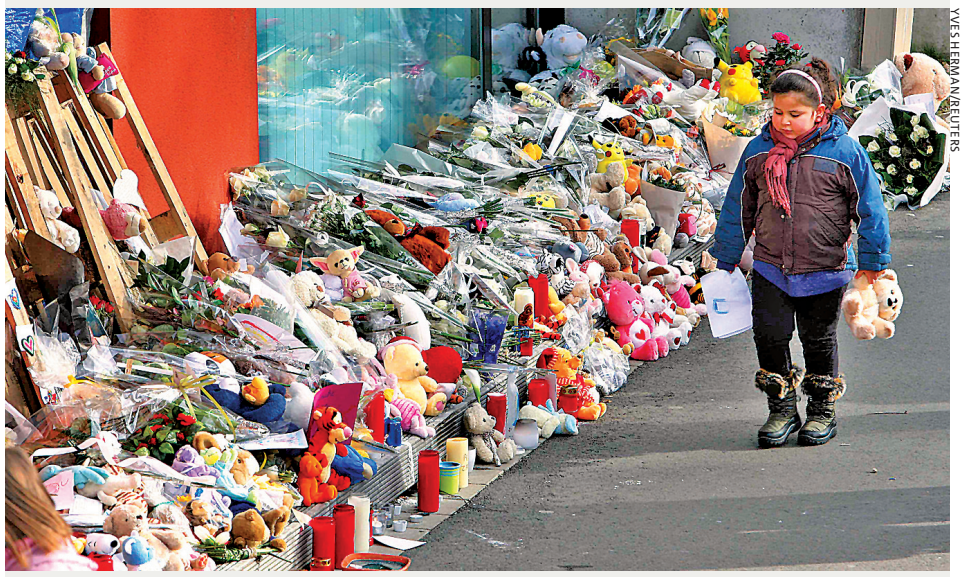
The issue is being closely watched by Lockheed Martin Corp., Boeing Co., Northrop Grumman Corp., the biggest U.S. defence contractors, and other companies involved in military and civilian space contracts.

Watchdog groups and even some defence officials welcomed the statement, which echoed Obama's campaign promises, but said it would take time to hammer out a comprehensive new strategy.

Enacting a global ban on space weapons could prove even harder.

For instance, it was difficult to define exactly what constituted a weapon because even seemingly harmless weather tracking satellites could be used to slam into and disable other satellites, said two U.S. officials involved in the area who were not authorized to speak publicly. REUTERS

Belgium **A nation mourns nursery tragedy**


YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

A girl comes to lay her teddy bear at the entrance of a creche in Derdermonde, Belgium, yesterday where a knife attack took place Friday. A man with a white painted face and blackened eyes stabbed to death two infants and a woman and injured 13 at a nursery before cycling away.

China parties in the new year

OX Chinese welcomed the arrival of the Year of the Ox with raucous celebrations yesterday, despite gloom about the economy, setting off firecrackers in the streets and sending fireworks into the sky.

Celebrations were expected to carry on into the early hours of today, officially the first day of the Lunar New Year.

Parts of Beijing resembled a war zone with residents braving freezing temperatures to let off brightly coloured fireworks. Clouds of smoke and a hail of red wrappings from firecrackers covered streets and explosions shook windows.

President visits communist heroes

- President Hu Jintao went to the old revolutionary base of Jinggangshan to visit heroes of the war that brought communists to power in 1949, state television said.

Firecrackers are believed to scare off evil spirits and entice the god of wealth to people's doorsteps once New Year's Day arrives, which falls on Monday this year under the Chinese lunar calendar.

Premier Wen Jiabao, who in previous years has spent the holiday with everyone from AIDS patients to coal miners, visited survivors of last May's earthquake in Sichuan that killed more than 80,000 people.

"It's been eight months since the earthquake, and I'm very happy to see how you've all been rebuilding your homes," Wen was paraphrased as telling survivors in Beichuan, the quake's epicentre, by the China News Service. REUTERS

Sri Lanka claims last Tamil town

REBELS Sri Lankan soldiers captured the last major town held by Tamil Tiger separatists yesterday, moving a step closer to finishing off one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies, the army said.

The eastern port of Mullaittivu is one of the final targets of a military onslaught to end a 25-year war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels. The army had not set foot inside it since the Tigers seized it in 1996. REUTERS

Nepal PM plans social changes

DOWRY Nepal's beleaguered Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda vowed yesterday to ban the dowry system and criminalize untouchability.

Many high caste Hindus in the remote villages still do not allow those considered to be lowest in the caste system to collect water from the same source or allow them to worship at temples. REUTERS

News in brief

VOTE Bolivian voters backed a new constitution yesterday, allowing leftist President Evo Morales to run for re-election and tighten his grip on the economy, and giving the poor indigenous majority more power. Exit polls showed the charter was approved with between 55 per cent and 60 per cent.

VIETNAM At least 40 people drowned when a ferry sank in central Vietnam yesterday, police said. Most of the dead were women and children on their way to a market at the start of the week-long Lunar New Year festival, a police officer in Quang Binh province said. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

First-day commandments

HineSight

Anne Hines

Besides working as a writer, I've spent the last eight years studying to become a United Church minister. I go to school part-time. I've said that my goal is "to try to graduate while there is still religion."

Frankly, some days, this seems a little touch and go.

Lately, the number of members in my church has been dropping faster than a Nortel-based RRSP. In fact, friends have suggested I consider a career with a brighter future. Perhaps as a typewriter salesperson or a small screen TV repairman.

But I've always been someone who follows her heart. Even when everyone's insisting its GPS must be on the blink.

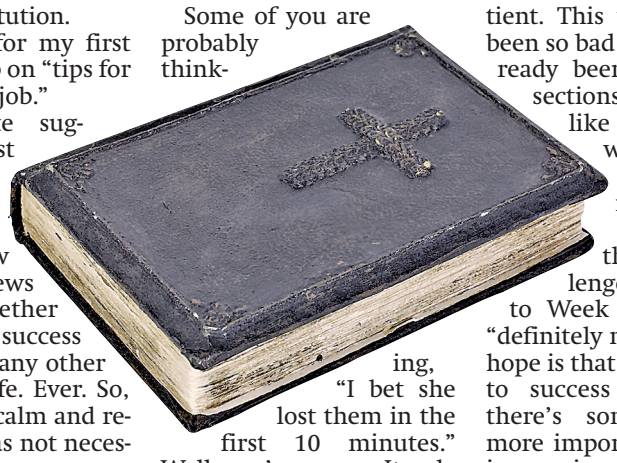
As part of my studies, I'll spend the next eight months working at an inner-city church and a mental-health institution.

To prepare for my first day, I boned up on "tips for starting a new job."

One website suggested, "First impressions are all-important. They determine how everyone views you and whether you'll achieve success in your job or any other part of your life. Ever. So, be sure to be calm and relaxed." This was not necessarily helpful.

Nor was, "Try to show you fit in." In the past, my efforts to fit in have led me to join an office lawn bowling team, drink tree bark-flavoured coffee and agree that Tiffany is the most underrated artist of our time.

The first-day strategy I adopted was "setting the bar low." At the church, I was issued keys and cautioned never to misplace them.

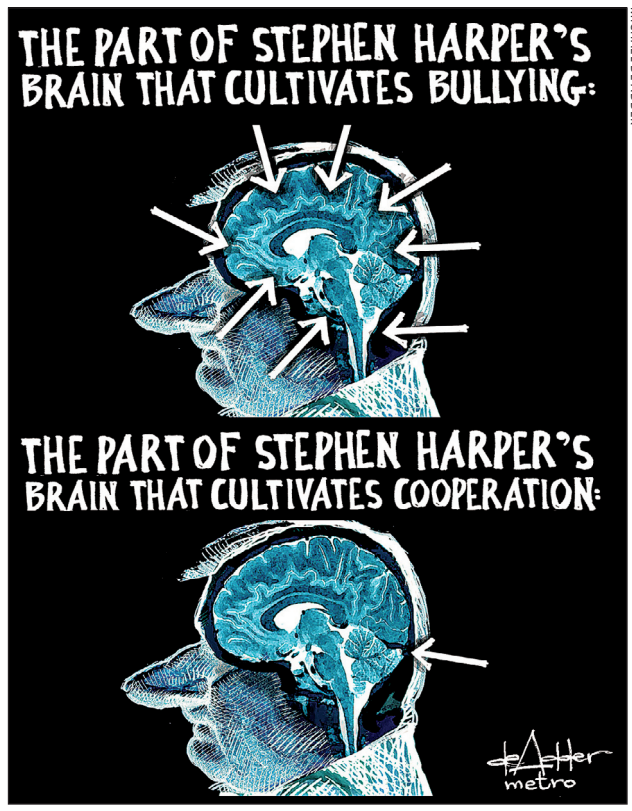


Some of you are probably thinking, "I bet she lost them in the first 10 minutes." Well, you're wrong. It only took five. For the next half hour, the entire staff searched for the keys that, fortunately, we found. Unfortunately, where we found them was in my jeans pocket.

Things didn't go smoothly at the mental-health institute either. Part way through the orientation questionnaire, the administrator realized I was there as staff, not as a patient. This wouldn't have been so bad except we'd already been through the sections on "issues I'd like to work on while here" and "preferred medications."

Am I up to this new challenge? As I head into Week 2, I'm saying "definitely maybe." What I hope is that when it comes to success on the job, there's something even more important than first impressions. Second, third and fourth ones.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

OC Transpo war: What is it good for?

InTransit

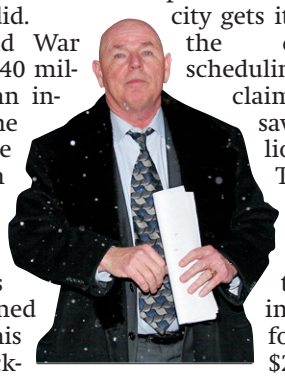
John Holmes

In the First World War, British and French generals famously lived the high life behind the front line, while regular soldiers died by the thousands in the trenches.

The bloody, pointless fight would no doubt have ended sooner if the army chiefs were forced to put their own lives on the line every day.

I'm not making direct comparisons between the First World War and our OC Transpo strike. But neither Mayor Larry O'Brien or ATU head André Cornellier rely on transit to get around. I'm sure the whole miserable affair would have been put to bed weeks ago if they did.

The First World War cost an estimated 40 million lives. As damn inconvenient as the transit strike is, the level of destruction it has wrought clearly is nowhere near the same scale. But lessons can always be learned from history. In this case, I'm very quickly being reminded how utterly futile conflict can be. On the western front, Allied territorial gains amounted to the French annexation of the Saarland, and the incorporation of a few German cantons into Belgium. "Was it all really worth it?" history has asked ever since.



Mayor Larry O'Brien

I feel local historians will ask much the same question about the transit strike. Financially, it's a complete no-brainer. If the city gets its way with the contentious scheduling issue, it claims it will save $3.4 million a year. That's approximately 0.15 per cent of a total operating budget for 2009 of $2.2 billion. Although it currently seems like the city and mayor have forgotten this mandate, their duty is to serve the citizens of Ottawa.

Any way you look at it, the damage wrought on Ottawa by the strike is worth considerably more than $3.4 million. Economic analysts believe Ottawa's economy has shrunk six per cent during the strike — a total cost of $280 million. Then there's the human cost. Each day, new stories emerge of seniors neglecting their well-being by walking long distances to buy groceries, or mental-health patients whose recovery has been set back by the isolation the strike has brought them.

When this is eventually over, some will surely look back and also ask whether it was all really worth it.

Living for so long on $50 a week is difficult on the strikers; losing the respect of a significant number of Ottawa's population is another high price to pay.

After the First World War, leaders of many of the scarred protagonists, including the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary, were soon replaced. At the end of the transit strike, perhaps Larry O'Brien and André Cornellier face a similar fate.

Worth mentioning

Nigerian police holding goat for attempted theft

Police in Nigeria are holding a goat on suspicion of attempted armed robbery.

Vigilantes took the black and white beast to the police saying it was an armed robber who had used black magic to transform himself into a goat to escape arrest after trying to steal a Mazda 323.

"The group of vigilante men came to report that while they were on patrol, they saw some hoodlums attempting to rob a car. They pursued them. However, one of them escaped while the other turned into a goat," Kwara state police spokesman Tunde Mohammed said.

"We cannot confirm the story, but the goat is in our custody. We cannot base our information on something mystical. It is something that has to be proved scientifically, that a human being turned into a goat," he said.

The goat remains in custody. REUTERS

Quote of the Day

"On Tuesday, we'll all see whether the prime minister has learned to listen. If he hasn't learned to listen, he's not going to lead for long."

— Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Dior feels downturn
Paris fashion week attendees note that Christian Dior and other labels have cut on expenses such as champagne, models and parties to save money as sales drop. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

‘Big and bold is best’

With the Canadian government having already leaked deficit figures ahead of tomorrow’s budget, investors are now focused on the specific measures that could boost sectors as diverse as construction and banking.

Canada 2009 Federal **Budget**

They will also be seeking confirmation that a country that until recently prided itself on fiscal prudence now sees the pressing need to borrow heavily in order to boost growth.

“Big and bold is best,” said Ian Nakamoto, director of research at MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier. “It cannot be timid in this environment. You’ve got to throw everything you’ve got at it.”

Analysts have speculated that the specific measures could range from regulatory changes that would let Ottawa inject equity into banks, to infrastructure spending that would boost construction and engineering firms such as Montreal-based SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.

Financial stocks such as Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia are seen as one of the best investment plays if better times beckon.

In currency markets, market players say a strong stimulus package could be a near-term positive for the Canadian dollar, as the boost it provides may help the Bank of Canada maintain the current positive spread to U.S. interest rates. REUTERS

Business in brief

CRIME The United Nations’ crime and drug watchdog has indications money made in illicit drug trade has been used as liquid investment capital to keep banks afloat during the financial crisis.

CURRENCY A Chinese official says recent comments made by U.S. Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner that China is manipulating its currency are unfair, a misinterpretation and an excuse to justify trade protectionism. REUTERS

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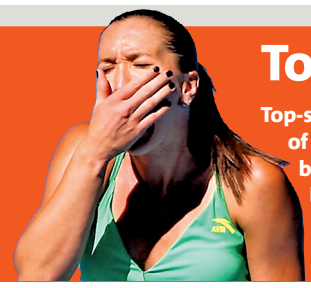
Canadian sixth at slalom

Julien Lizeroux edged Jean-Baptiste Grange in a French 1-2 finish yesterday at a men's World Cup slalom. John Kucera of Calgary had two strong slalom runs to vault to sixth place in the combined event. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Top seed Jankovic out

Top-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, left, was knocked out of the Australian Open yesterday, beaten in straight sets by Marion Bartoli of France. On the men's side, Roger Federer survived a scare, coming back from two sets down against Tomas Berdych to reach the quarter-finals. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Kovalev the hometown hero

NHL ALL-STAR GAME

West 11 **East** 12 (SO)

VS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Montreal's Alexei Kovalev scores the shootout winner for the East on Roberto Luongo last night.

Alex Kovalev collected three points on two goals and one assist and notched the game-winner in the shootout, as the Eastern Conference posted a wild 12-11 win over the Western Conference at the 57th NHL all-star game in Montreal.

Kovalev, the Montreal Canadiens' captain, collected MVP honours for the effort, his first such recognition in his 16-year career. In addition, he became the first Habs player to earn the honour since Mark Recchi in 1997 at San Jose.

Kovalev opened the second round of the shootout on a sizzling wrister to the glove side that caught West netminder Roberto Luongo off-guard.

After Rick Nash failed on his chance against Tim Thomas, Alex Ovechkin clinched the win by pushing a shot inside the left post.

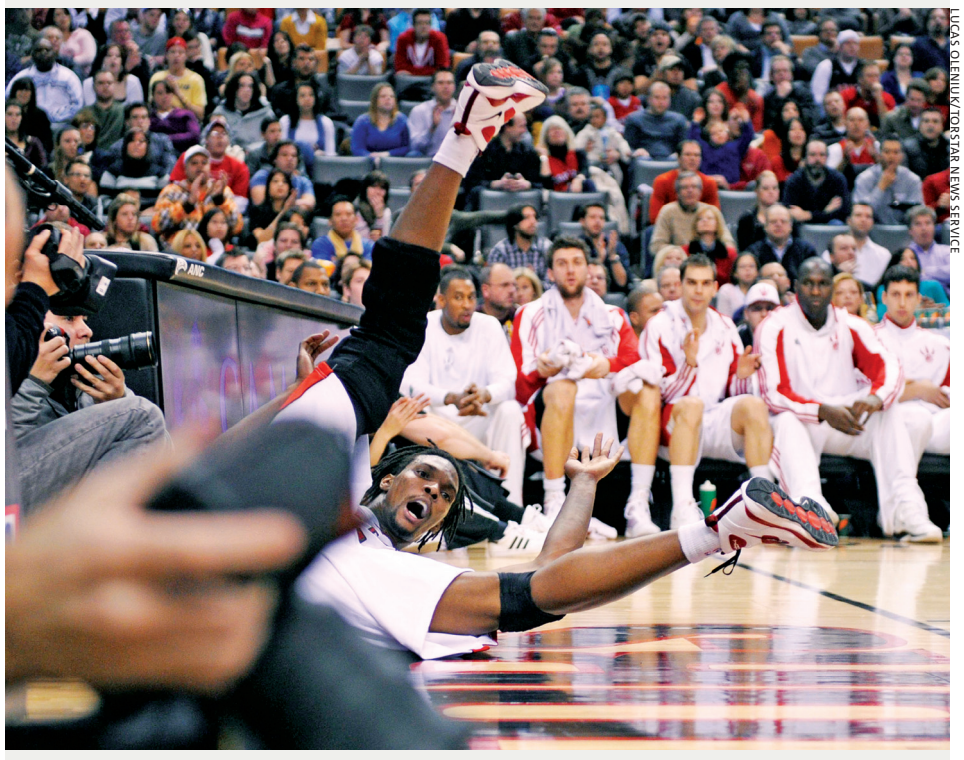
Martin St. Louis also notched two goals and a helper for the Eastern Conference, which won for the third time in five games since the NHL re-established an East-West format in 2003.

Jay Bouwmeester and Ovechkin added a goal and two assists each, and Marc Savard had three helpers, while Thomas got the win after allowing three goals on 22 shots through the third period and overtime.

The 23 combined goals in the contest ranked second only to the 2001 all-star game in Denver, which saw Team North America clip Team World, 14-12.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NBA Raptors win second straight


LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto's Chris Bosh crashes to the ground after driving to the Sacramento Kings net in the first quarter of last night's game. Bosh had 31 points as the Raptors won 113-97.

Sports in brief

David Beckham

SOCCER David Beckham netted his first Serie A goal and Kaka scored twice after a difficult week to give third-place AC Milan a 4-1 comeback win at Bologna. Kaka, whose world-record move to Manchester City collapsed last Monday, converted a penalty and fired in a superb strike before Beckham wrapped things up with a near-post finish. REUTERS

NBA Milwaukee Bucks sharpshooter Michael Redd will miss the remainder of the season after suffering a pair of torn knee ligaments during Saturday's game against Sacramento. Redd was hurt with 2:33 left in the third quarter of Milwaukee's 106-104 win and an MRI exam yesterday revealed a torn anterior cruciate ligament as well as a torn medial collateral ligament in the left knee.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Try to limit use of your iron
Irons use a lot of energy. Save it by taking your clothes from the dryer and folding or hanging them up while they're warm. Better yet, hang your clothes to dry. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Going Green

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Building for a greener future

EarthTones

Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

earthtones.metro@gmail.com

Windmills or other alternative power sources could support the economy into the future when oil is not readily available and carbon emissions are more strictly controlled.

Hello Metro readers. After a brief hiatus we, Earth Tones, are back.

Since we last spoke, many things have happened in the world. Most immediately relevant to most of us is the bottom has fallen out of the world economy. So these days companies are worried about staying in business, not trading carbon credits, and individuals are worried about keeping their jobs and paying their mortgages, not about whether to buy a Smart Car or a Prius.

A year ago, the environment was consistently among the top-three priorities for Canadians in opinion polls. These days, it doesn't even crack the top five. Is the environment still relevant in today's political and economic climate? Why should we take time away from worrying about our bank balances to worry about the Earth's balance?

First of all, we need to remember the things that were making headlines six months ago, before the headlines became dominated by who was bailing out whom and how much stock prices have fallen, are still happening now. They have just been eclipsed by things that may seem more immediately urgent.

Polar ice is still melting, CO2 levels are still rising. These things don't stop because humans have dug themselves a financial hole. Although worldwide manufacturing has slowed, carbon emissions have not been reduced to a level that makes a difference to global warming. We need to decide whether the environment is a luxury that we consider only in times of plenty, or whether it is our lifeline that we need to sustain at all times.

"We need to decide whether the environment is a luxury that we consider only in times of plenty, or whether it is our lifeline that we need to sustain at all times."

We also need to remember that our economy is "in transition." The benchmark for economic "downturns" is, of course, the Great Depression. During the Depression, many world leaders used deficit spending to finance huge infrastructure projects that laid the foundation for the modern economy.

"Spending one's way out of a recession" and running large budget deficits is controversial these days after the balanced budgets of the more prosperous years. However, in the past this has produced needed jobs and created infrastructure that transformed the economy.

We have before us an opportunity. The economic stimulus that we so urgently need can be used to lay a new infrastructure for a greener future. Massive investments in public transit can be made. New light-rail and bus systems can be integrated with existing systems so that in the future cars are simply not a necessity of day-to-day life the way they are today.

Similarly, the government plans to invest in industry, which will create jobs and confidence. Special consideration must be given to industries that will be environmentally sustainable and that will continue to support the economy into the future when oil is not readily available and carbon emissions are more strictly controlled.

So as we adjust to the new reality, let us hope that we can grow and change during these difficult times and emerge with an infrastructure that can carry us into a sustainable future.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University.

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Billions for higher education in draft U.S. stimulus package

Recently, Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives released a draft of an $825-billion US economic stimulus package, with tens of billions of dollars targeting higher education. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Unmet targets

In its forthcoming 2009 Economic Scorecard Report, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce says regional universities are failing to meet the target of increasing admissions by 500 students a year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The bitter reality of EI

Millions of Canadian workers pay employment insurance premiums their entire working lives giving little thought to what would happen if they lost their jobs tomorrow.

But as the global economic crisis deepens, tens of thousands facing layoff are learning the cruel truth.

Cuts in the early 1990s mean barely half of the country's unemployed today are eligible for benefits. Those lucky enough to qualify often get far less than poverty-level incomes. And for almost everyone scrambling to find work as the economy crumbles, benefits run out too soon.

As Stephen Harper's Conservatives put the final touches on tomorrow's budget, labour and business leaders alike are calling on Ottawa to mend Canada's tattered employment insurance program — and put money in the hands of those who need it most and are most likely to spend it now.

The United States Congress has already passed two federal extensions to state employment benefits, and a new bill could see many American workers laid off in the beginning of 2008 collect benefits for up to two years. Most Canadian observers believe Ottawa is also ready to act.

For about 2,400 auto-parts workers who lost their jobs when Progressive Moulded Products plant, in Vaughan, Ont., went bankrupt last July, the fix cannot come soon enough.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Duc Phung Diep, left, and Balvir Kaur Singh are former employees of Progressive Moulded Products. The Vaughan, Ont., plant went bankrupt last July.

• **BALVIR KAUR SINGH** worked full time at the factory for 17 years before dropping to part time last year after a workplace injury. As a result of changes to EI in the 1990s that boosted the number of hours a person has to work before qualifying for benefits, Singh initially didn't receive a cent. However, she was later awarded 17 weeks of EI sickness benefits.

"I am trying. Sometimes I cry. It's too hard," she says quietly in halting English.

• **SINGLE MOM DUC PHUNG DIEP** is drowning in debt because EI is paying her just $325 a week — or 55 per cent of her previous income. Laid-off workers during the last recession were eligible to receive 60 per cent of their earnings.

"How do we care for our children?" she asks. She came to Canada from a refugee camp in Vietnam in 1996 with her four-year-old son.

Economists, academics and unions want Ottawa to scrap EI entrance requirements based on regional unemployment rates and allow workers everywhere to qualify if they have worked 360 hours in the previous year.

This would include new entrants and those on special benefits, such as maternity or sick leave.

Workers currently need between 420 and 700 hours depending on regional unemployment rates before they qualify. New workers or those returning to the workforce after a two-year absence need between 840 and 910 hours and those seeking maternity or sick benefits need 600 hours.

EI changes

CURRENT EI ELIGIBILITY

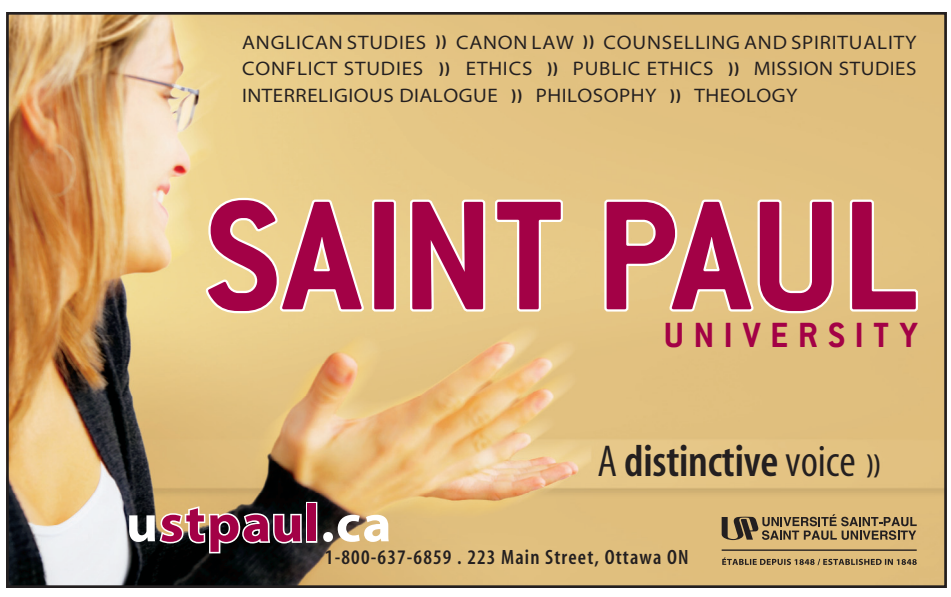
• Eligibility is based on regional unemployment rates and the number of hours worked in the previous 52 weeks. In areas where unemployment is less than seven per cent, laid-off workers need between 665 and 700 hours before they can receive benefits. Where unemployment tops 13 per cent, they need just 420 hours. New entrants need between 840 and 910 hours and those seeking sickness or maternity benefits need 600 hours.

SUGGESTED CHANGE

• Eligibility for all workers — including those seeking sickness and maternity benefits — at a uniform 360 weeks.

Before 1996, workers only needed the equivalent of between 180 to 300 hours to qualify. For new entrants, it was just 300 hours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Metro Workology exclusive: Curtain Call
Don't miss Curtain Call, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. In the realm of death, there are some interesting, lucrative and mysterious career opportunities; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check out Metronews.ca/work exclusively throughout January.

Snow in the hill, then ski it yourself

OddJobs

If you're an avid skier, you'll be envious of Jodie McCutcheon. "It's a dream job," says the 37-year-old snowmaking, roads and parking manager for the Whistler Blackcomb ski resort in Whistler, B.C. "I work days, I have technology at my disposal, I make darn good money and I get to ski a lot."

McCutcheon manages a staff of as many as a hundred people, including six millwrights that do equipment repairs year-round and a large staff of seasonal snowmakers who work from October to January. These mostly young men work 12-hour shifts operating 270 snowmaking guns. These guns shoot out water that turns into snow when combined with air. Snowmaking staff adjusts the water pressure and the direction of the guns, plus they move them around the mountain and shovel.

It's McCutcheon's job to decide if it's cold enough to make snow (it's less efficient to make snow once it gets up to -1 C), assess the quality of the artificial snow and map out where the guns are going next.

He gets to his computer about 5:30 a.m. Cameras on the mountain helps him assess the snow and equipment. He also schedules his staff, checks the weather, monitors the water level in the resort's reservoir and looks ahead to upcoming ski competition and events that will need additional snow.

By about 8:15 a.m. he's outside on skis, checking the slopes and the guns. By lunch he's back in the office again, and his workday ends by 2 p.m. or 3 p.m.

McCutcheon comes from a farm in northern B.C. and briefly studied arts at university. In 1991 he moved to Whistler to be a ski bum. He started working for the mountain in equipment rentals and then as a ski patroller.

He had some friends who did snowmaking, and he liked what he heard about the job. "It was mechanical, very hands-on, very physical. And it was away from customer service. I thought I'd like it."

He joined the seasonal team in 1998. In the summer he worked as a carpenter. When the snowmaking season ended each year, he was free to ski or take a warm beach holiday.

The resort started investing more in snowmaking. McCutcheon was great with computers and technology, and started moving up the ranks. Eighteen months ago, his boss moved on and he found himself head of snowmaking operations.

It's safe to say, this guy knows snow.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Snowmaker
Salary: Starts at $14.25/hour
Education/training: On the job training; ability to ski and knowledge of snow through courses
Best part of the job: "Being in control and skiing every day."
Worst part of the job: "Babysitting. I deal with a lot of 19- and 20-year-olds on my staff."

For the avid skier or snowboarder, snowmaking can be a very rewarding career.

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Senator in Travolta case resigns
The Bahamas senator arrested over an alleged plot to extort money from movie star John Travolta has resigned from her post, despite vowing to prove her innocence. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Miss America
Katie Stam of Indiana was crowned Miss America on Saturday, fighting off a throat infection, laryngitis and 51 other contestants to win the pageant. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Weekend box office

1. **Paul Blart: Mall Cop:** $21.5 million US
2. **Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** $20.7 million
3. **Gran Torino:** $16 million
4. **Hotel for Dogs:** $12.4 million
5. **Slumdog Millionaire:** $10.5 million
6. **My Bloody Valentine: 3-D:** $10 million
7. **Inkheart:** $7.7 million
8. **Bride Wars:** $7 million
9. **Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** $6 million
10. **Notorious:** $5.7 million

REUTERS

Design diversity

Reality show showcases Canadian fashions

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

On one side of the catwalk sit nervous budding designers, their eyes the sole indicators of any present jitters. Judgment, on the other hand, flows from the facial expressions of the fashion professionals who scribble notes as garments slink by on the svelte limbs of the models on parade.

This vogue vision is not filling the tents at Toronto Fashion Week, nor the seasonal debuts in New York or Paris. The scene is ripped from the unexpectedly stylish streets of Ottawa, the backdrop for the second season of design reality program Project Runway Canada, in which 14 aspiring designers compete for $100,000.

"The style in Ottawa tends to be thought of as conservative and high quality, with embassies and ambassadors and all kinds of high-end events," said Andrea Gabourie, the series' executive producer, backstage on the show's set that's positioned coincidentally adjacent to the Embassy of France. "But I think there's a real emerging diversity in fashion here ... One of our goals with the show is making Canadians excited about knowing who the Canadian fashion designers are and buying their clothes, the same way we are about our Canadian musicians — making stars out of our own designers."

Ready for takeoff

- Project Runway Canada premieres on Global TV tomorrow night at 10 p.m.

Elevating designers into national recognition is largely established by the immediacy with which the show allows a complete unknown to display their construction and design abilities not just to the Canadian public, but also to already internationally respected designers.

Brian Bailey is one of them. The women's sportswear and eveningwear designer and Canada's first to produce complementary collections for both traditional and plus sizes returns this season to mentor the contestants.

"It's about immediate brand building," Bailey said. "It's about delivering into the hearts and homes of Canadians across Canada that watch television that we have a Canadian design industry and that (its designers) are fabulous! That's a damn nice Canadian thing to say, isn't it?"

But, while it may be nice to make Canadian designers feel special, there's no denying the misconception that the show is a fashion stepchild to the United States, says this season's host supermodel Iman.

"They have no idea how great their talent is, so they don't bring their game on because they think, 'Oh where will it go?'

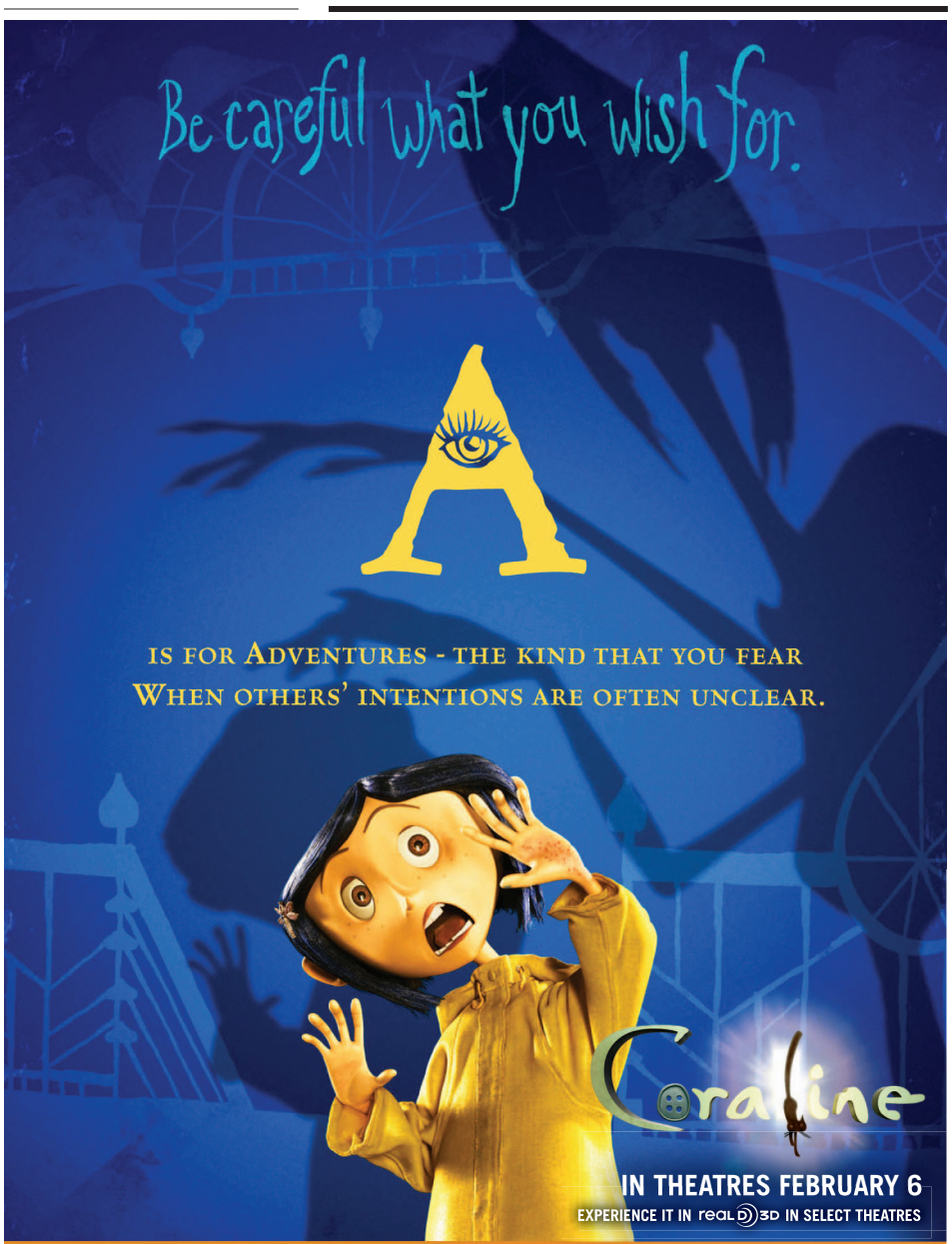
"Fashion is global. There's not just a Canadian designer."

She begs to prove the Canadian designers wrong by bringing her industry expertise to the table.

"By sheer luck, wouldn't it be great if I discovered the genius of tomorrow?" she says excitedly, with a roar of laughter.

PHOTO HANDOUT

Supermodel Iman returns as host of Project Runway Canada.



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Lipstick Jungle stage manager accused of stealing
A stage manager for the NBC show Lipstick Jungle has been charged with stealing almost $30,000 US in designer fashion from the show, reports say. Arthur Moreira, 27, was arrested Friday in Brooklyn. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Prequel a yawn

Underworld: Rise of **The Lycans**

Director: Patrick Tatopoulos
Stars: Rhona Mitra, Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy
Classification: 18A
Rating:

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

Rhona Mitra stars in Underworld: Rise of the Lycans.

It's a remarkable feat that the Underworld series of films have managed to make a war between vampires and werewolves so boring.

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, the third (and fingers crossed for final) instalment is a prequel, fleshing out the origin of the centuries long struggle between these two creatures of the night. Thing is, if you've seen the first two films (Underworld and Underworld: Evolution) you'll already know this tale; both films spent plenty of screen time creating this back-story through flashbacks and over-the-top monologues.

As for viewers who managed to miss these cinematic gems, do you really care?

Rise of the Lycans' plot revolves around two star-crossed lovers, but instead of Montagues and Capulets, it's vampires and lycans. Sonia (played by Doomsday's Rhona Mitra) loves Lycan slave Lucian (a slumming Michael Sheen) much to the chagrin of her vampire king father Viktor (a humourless Bill Nighy).

When Viktor has his daughter killed for her transgressions, Lucian flips, rallies the other werewolf slaves and all hell breaks loose.

Being a prequel, Rise of the Lycans is freed from the need to bring viewers up to speed with a convoluted back-story something that dragged down its predecessors. So this is the most accessible and straightforward film in the trilogy.

That said, for all the effort that has been made to flesh out the world in which the Underworld series exists the characters that inhabit it are one-dimensional archetypes.

And this really wouldn't be a problem if the action sequences, which should really be the backbone of this film, weren't so dull. The choreographed gunplay that typified the first two movies has been replaced with sword fight retreads mixed with Matrix copping aerial stunts. But it's Rise of the Lycans' refusal to have fun that's its undoing.

This could have been a great bad movie, but instead it's just boring.

Internet TVs create buzz

TECHNOLOGY A new generation of Internet-connected TV sets are emerging as potentially useful tools for the recording industry in its ongoing quest to extend the reach of digital music into living rooms.

Judging from the buzz that connected TVs generated at the otherwise subdued International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas recently, Internet access may soon become as important a feature to TV buyers as screen size and resolution. REUTERS

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

Read today's column at metronews.ca

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Kenya Hunt

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	OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/26/09 primetime		265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Milosevic on Trial (N)		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Big Baby" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Captain Cook: Obsession		News (N)
		-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Les Parent	L'Auberge du chien noir (SC)		Les Boys (SC)	Tout sur moi	Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		La Zone
		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Old Christine	Old Christine	News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Being Erica (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Superstars of Dance (N)		*The Last Templar* (2009, Adventure) Mira Sorvino.				News (N)
		117	713	10	TVA	Les Gags (N)	Bloopers TVA	Juste pour rire (SC)		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
		-	-	11	QS	Beauté	C't'une joke	CSI: NY (SC)		Terminator: Les Chroniques		Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz
		137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Dans le secret des pierres		*Gouttes d'eau sur pierres brûlantes* (1999)			Y'a pas d'âge	Professionels
		-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
		216	395	14	OMN2	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Young Rebels
		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor (N)				True Beauty (N)		News (N)
		115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup	How I Met	*The Last Templar* (2009, Adventure) Mira Sorvino.				News (N)
		-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	The Bachelor (N)				True Beauty (N)		News (N)
		512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
		651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
		-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House "Big Baby" (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		News (N)		News
		-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Steves Europe	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (N) (DVS)				Tavis Smiley
		205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
news		502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Business	Politics With Don Newman (N)		CBC News: The National		Conspiracy Files Lockerbie (N)		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports		406	417	27	net	Boxing Jelena Mrdjenovich vs. Lindsey Scragg.				Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		400	280	30	TSN	AHL Hockey All-Star Game. (HDTV) From Worcester, Mass. (Live)						Tennis: Australian Open -- Quarterfinals		
		410	403	52	SCR	RaceNight				(9:15) WWE Monday Night Raw				Score Tonight
		411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (N)		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
		417	406	59	SC	NASCAR Pre.	Pass Time (N)	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		NASCAR Pre.
family		554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Misadventures	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
		557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
		551	542	65	YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
cable variety		570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Where You At
		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Whacked"		Intervention "Lawrence"		Intervention "Anthony"		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Zoo York"		*The Quick and the Dead* ★★ (1995, Western) Sharon Stone.				MANswers
		521	560	34	TLC	Kids by the Dozen		Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Little People
		145	761	35	TV5	L'Objet du scandale "Le 4x4"		Trains-autres	(8:45) Babylone			Seules		Journal TV5
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees	House
		620	523	40	BVO	Hot Dance	Dance With Me	Eva: The Price of Passion		Symphonic Landscapes Kent Nagano.			Eric Lagace	Law & Order
		520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs Leeches. (N)		Verminators (N)		Daily Planet
		575	583	43	CMT	All About (N)	All About	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	CMT Star
		601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover		Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada
		625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Zach Galifianakis: Live		Daily Show
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	Welcome to	Welcome to	Seinfeld
		600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Ambrose Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes-Homes
		627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Pilot" (Part 1 of 2)		Star Trek: Voyager		Ghost Hunters		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	53	MTV	The City	City Live After	MTV News	Cribs (N)	Bromance		The City	City Live After	MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	E News	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
		522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Sharif Returns"		Tiger Spirit North and South Korea.			Vimy Under	NCIS "Sharif Returns"		Crime Stories
		129	773	60	CD	Biographies Heather Locklear.		Les Grands travaux (HDTV)		Science du combat		Alliance meurtrière (HDTV)		Paradis perdus
		261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May-December	McLeod's Daughters (N)		God Bless	Clergy	Poltergeist
		602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		Save Us-House	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
		269	350	70	APTN	Notre Peuple		Terres arct.	Mishkuenita	*Le Silence des fusils* (1996, Drame) Jacques Perrin.				Tshinanu
		621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	First Class All the Way		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Food Detective	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen		Chef School

critics' corner

Being Erica
In this new episode, Erica has a new boss who's a real bully. To help her gain the confidence to confront him, Dr. Tom sends her back to university for a do-over with a fearsome professor in "The Secret of Now." 9 PM on 8 CBC

The Big Bang Theory
Interventions are usually about getting someone to stop doing something. But in this episode, it's all about getting a behavior started. Sheldon, you see, has a fear of driving, and Leonard and his other friends think it's time he faced his fear and got behind the wheel in "The Euclid Alternative." 8 PM on 13 CBS 7 CTV 104 CTV

CSI: Miami
Season six ended with a literal bang, as head CSI Horatio Caine was gunned down on an airstrip. In this reprise of the seventh-season premiere, his colleagues pull out all the stops to find the shooter, crossing paths with some of Miami's most unsavory characters. 10 PM on 13 CBS 7 CTV 104 CTV

Two on the way
Actress Molly Ringwald, left, is preparing for double trouble — she's expecting twins, imdb.com reports. The Breakfast Club star, 40, has announced she is pregnant with a boy and a girl, according to People.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Prince dumped

ROMANCE British royal Prince Harry has been ditched by his long-term love Chelsy Davy — ending their five-year romance, imdb.com reports.

The pair parted ways following a series of tearful phone calls, according to British tabloid the News of the World.

And a source tells the publication that despite making the decision, 23-year-old Zimbabwean Davy is "distraught" at the split.

The insider adds, "She has simply had enough. They have been going through what she calls a 'rough patch' and she didn't see the point in going on.

"Their lives have been moving in different directions. Chelsy is about to embark on a career in law and being a royal girlfriend can be quite limiting."

A royal source told the tabloid the romance had simply "run its course," and that the pair were still on friendly terms.

The split marks an overall troublesome time for the 24-year-old prince — he was also embroiled in a race row after a film showing him referring to an army colleague as "P--i" was released.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Angie's ex-bodyguard may release tell-all

SCANDAL Angelina Jolie's Oscar-nomination celebrations have been marred by reports her former bodyguard is planning a tell-all which will set out to prove the actress moved in on partner Brad Pitt when he was still married to Jennifer Aniston, imdb.com reports.

Sources claim the actress, who was nominated for a best actress Academy Award on Thursday, is seeking legal counsel to block Mickey Brett's expose, which will also expose intimate details of her courtship and sex life with Pitt.

A publishing insider tells In Touch Weekly magazine, "He (Brett) knows everything about Angelina. It's going to be one of the most explosive books ever written."

Brett, who headed up the Jolie/Pitt's security detail when the couple went into hiding in Namibia before the birth of baby daughter Shiloh in 2006, was reportedly fired by Pitt last year. The insider also tells In Touch Weekly, "The (book) will include all the sordid details of how they (Pitt and Jolie) got together while Brad was still married to Jennifer Aniston."

Pitt attempted to clear up those rumours in a recent interview after Jolie revealed the couple had met and fallen in love on the set of action film Mr. & Mrs. Smith, which was made when the movie hunk was still married. He insisted there was no "dastardly affair."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hathaway lauds curvier figures

IMAGE Actress Anne Hathaway has championed Scarlett Johansson and Beyonce Knowles for their curvy figures, praising the pair as good role models for youngsters, imdb.com reports.

The Devil Wears Prada star has recently been lambasted for being too skinny, although the 27-year-old is adamant she is a "normal shape." And Hathaway has hailed Johansson, Knowles, and fellow actress Reese Witherspoon for projecting healthy body images in a world where super-slim is often seen as an ideal.

She says, "I don't think it's just Hollywood that gives out that message. As a society we put out these unrealistic body images to young women.

"But I'm a normal shape and Scarlett Johansson is not a skinny, skinny girl. Beyonce Knowles looks after herself and has a beautiful body. Reese Witherspoon looks great."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sex and the City star denies split

RUMOURS Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker has dismissed rumours she is set to split from her husband Matthew Broderick, imdb.com reports.

The couple has been dogged by rumours of an impending split ever since August when American tabloid, Star, claimed Broderick, 46, had an affair with a younger woman.

And fresh speculation arose recently, with Internet gossips claiming Parker had been spotted visiting a New York realtor to prepare for moving out of the family's Manhattan home.

But Parker and Broderick have been putting on a united front, appearing in public together on Thursday night to see Broadway play, The American Plan.

And Parker brushed off the breakup rumours, telling People.com, "This is date night. It was really lovely. We don't even bother to address them (the reports)."

And when asked the best thing about life as a married couple, the actress replied, "Being married!"

The couple married in 1997 and has a four year old son, James Wilkie.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

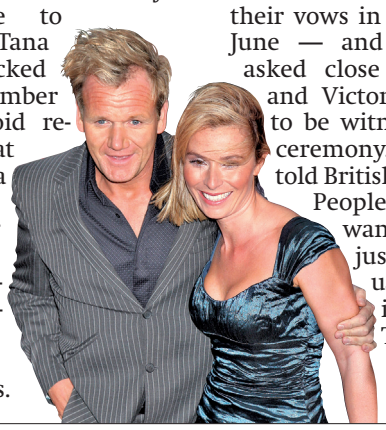
Ramsays to renew vows

MARRIAGE TV chef Gordon Ramsay is set to renew his wedding vows — just months after allegations he cheated on his wife, imdb.com reports.

The F Word star's 12-year marriage to wife Tana was rocked in November by tabloid reports that he had a long-standing affair with "serial mistress" Sarah Symonds.

Yet Ramsay firmly denied the rumours, claiming: "It never happened. It was completely made up. She set it up to make some money." Now the couple have decided to cement their vows in London this June — and have even asked close pals David and Victoria Beckham to be witnesses at the ceremony. A source told British tabloid The People, "Gordon wants to show just how infatuated he still is with Tana."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Downey Jr. loves Googling himself

GOSSIP Actor Robert Downey Jr. loves to look himself up on the Internet — so he can see what people are saying about him, imdb.com reports.

The Tropic Thunder star was quizzed by Newsweek about his online habits and confessed to "Googling" himself on the web — and finds it hilarious when he comes across chatrooms dedicated to him. He says, "Oh, I love all that s--t, personally. Sorry. I love just it. Because it's a hoot. Some people overstate their support, like they know you.

"Other people are busy doing something else and just want to go on this chat site and say some despicable character assassination, which I honestly think they kind of nailed it. I do have that shortcoming. It's really fun."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Engagement rumours false: Gisele

ENGAGEMENT Supermodel Gisele Bundchen has dismissed reports she and American football star Tom Brady are engaged, imdb.com reports.

The pair has been subjected to repeated engagement rumours over the past month.

Separate reports alleged New England Patriots quarterback Brady had proposed on Christmas Eve and popped the question earlier this month.

But Leonardo DiCaprio's ex-girlfriend insists she has no sparkling ring to show off to pals.

She says, "I don't know how people are so creative. First they said he proposed to me in a plane. Imagine, it was Dec. 24, Christmas, we were flying to Boston, then there was some champagne and we celebrated the date.

"Now there's a new rumour that he proposed to me on last Friday (sic). I wasn't even there (with him), how can that be true?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Charlie's Angels back for more

PEOPLE Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu and Cameron Diaz are set to return to the big screen as Charlie's Angels for a third film, imdb.com reports.

Six years after the sequel Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle, the trio is ready to go again.

Barrymore says, "I'm so into it … They're hard movies to make, but they're fun."

And sources tell Eonline.com that the three angels are looking to add a fourth lovely lady to the mix for their second sequel, which is set to start shooting later this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today Variable -13°/ -18°
Tuesday Sunny -14° / -18°
Wednesday Partly cloudy -8°/ -13°

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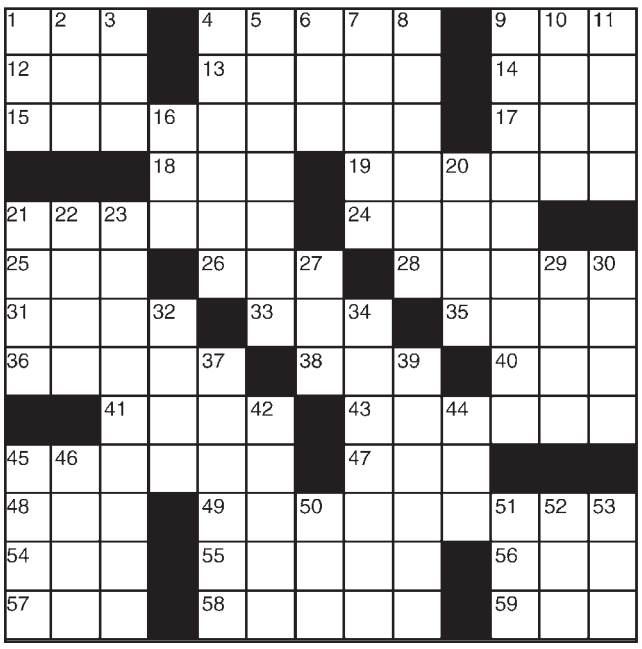
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Exercise in the park
4 Duel tool
9 Method
12 Actress Gardner
13 "..., excavating for —"
14 A Gershwin brother
15 Potbelly
17 Fresh
18 Pub order
19 Greek islander
21 Moves on momentum
24 Loathe
25 Melody
26 Conk out
28 Sounds contented
31 Church furniture
33 Pompous sort
35 Golfer Aoki
36 Wields scissors
38 Snapshot
40 Old French coin
41 Memorandum
43 Second of two
45 Inn
47 Historic period
48 "That tastes awful!"
49 Wisconsin lake
54 Bikini half
55 Draw out
56 Prune
57 Stitch
58 Discourage
59 "Monty Python" opener

Crossword down

1 Pugilist's shot
2 Eggs
3 Festive
4 Went like Columbus
5 Serious forgetfulness
6 Auction action
7 Tennyson's "— Arden"
8 Swathe anew
9 Maxwell Anderson play
10 Neighborhood
11 Show boredom
16 Bankroll
20 Needle case
21 Spaces
22 Collateral option
23 "Rich Man, Poor Man" author
27 Kreskin's claim
29 Track competition
30 Acerbic
32 Dalmatian feature
34 Librarian's request
37 Intoxicated
39 Life's work
42 Skip a phoneme
44 Bill
45 Centers
46 Shrek is one
50 Enthusiast
51 Foreman foe
52 Understood
53 Harvest goddess

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3						4	
		2				6		
1	9		6	2	8		7	3
	8		9		2		3	
2								9
	4		8		7		5	
4	6		7	9	5		2	8
		3				7		
	7						6	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	P	A		O	P	S		C	R	I	E	S		
T	O	G		D	I	P		O	P	I	N	E		
O	U	R		E	C	O	N	O	M	I	S	T		
I	C	E		S	K	O	A	L						
C	H	E	W		E	R	R		W	A	D	E		
			O	P	T		Z	I	R	C	O	N		
A	N	G	L	E			F	I	E	N	D			
C	O	N	F	A	B		A	S	S					
T	R	U	E		A	L	L		T	O	P	E		
			B	L	O	C	K		M	A	X			
S	A	T	Y	R	I	C	O	N		E	T	A		
A	T	S	E	A		A	V	E		G	E	L		
P	E	P	P	Y		I	E	E		A	R	T		

5	3	4	8	9	2	7	6	1
7	2	8	1	6	3	5	4	9
1	6	9	5	4	7	8	3	2
9	5	1	7	3	6	2	8	4
3	4	7	2	8	5	9	1	6
2	8	6	4	1	9	3	5	7
8	9	3	6	7	1	4	2	5
4	1	2	9	5	8	6	7	3
6	7	5	3	2	4	1	9	8

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Arroz con Pollo

INGREDIENTS:
3 lbs (1.5 kg) chicken breasts, thighs and drumsticks
Nonstick cooking spray
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
1 cup (250 ml) uncooked long-grain white rice
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 can (14 oz/392 g) low-sodium tomatoes, undrained and cut up
1 large green pepper, chopped
1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped cooked lower-sodium ham
3/4 tsp (4 ml) hot red pepper sauce
1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
1/4 cup (50 ml) sliced black olives

METHOD:
1. Remove and discard chicken skin. Rinse chicken; drain and pat dry. Coat Dutch oven with cooking spray. Add oil and heat over moderately high heat. Brown chicken in hot oil 10 minutes or until golden, turning occasionally. Remove chicken from Dutch oven. Add rice and garlic to Dutch oven. Cook and stir over moderate heat for 5 minutes or until rice just starts to brown.
2. Stir chicken broth, tomatoes, green pepper, ham, pepper sauce and salt into Dutch oven. Return chicken to Dutch oven. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, about 30 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and rice is tender. Stir in olives; heat through.

SERVES 6

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A bully will force a cancellation. You'll forget all about a bad moment. Something wonderful will happen before you know it.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A message appears from nowhere. Give someone another chance to make you happy. Forgive yourself for having second thoughts.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone's words will replay in your mind. Relatives will have temper tantrums. Make a difference by giving an understandable message.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A misunderstanding can cause a break-up. Hearsay should be ignored in an unfair situation. A disturbing puzzle keeps you on your feet.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A girl is secretly hoarding stuff. Be cautious about giving advice to anyone. Remember to keep smiling, no matter what happens.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An adventure will cause distress. Focus on what you can do to find happiness. Go out of your way to avoid cranky people.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Look for a pattern within the pandemonium. A weak-willed boy will go home. You'll hear a sad tale about cheating.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A glitch causes irritability to flare up. A friend's information will be of importance. Your self-esteem is about to be increase.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be tough as nails with boring people. A friend will explain about a break-up. Jumping to conclusions throws you off-balance.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Give someone a reason to avoid a difficult situation. A friend is sad about a revelation. A man lets go of a careless style.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Take the easy way out for a while. Make comments to help change a woman's mind. Get satisfaction from a new friendship.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An irresistible woman will go too far. Don't be your own worst enemy. Opportunities will crop up between friends.

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